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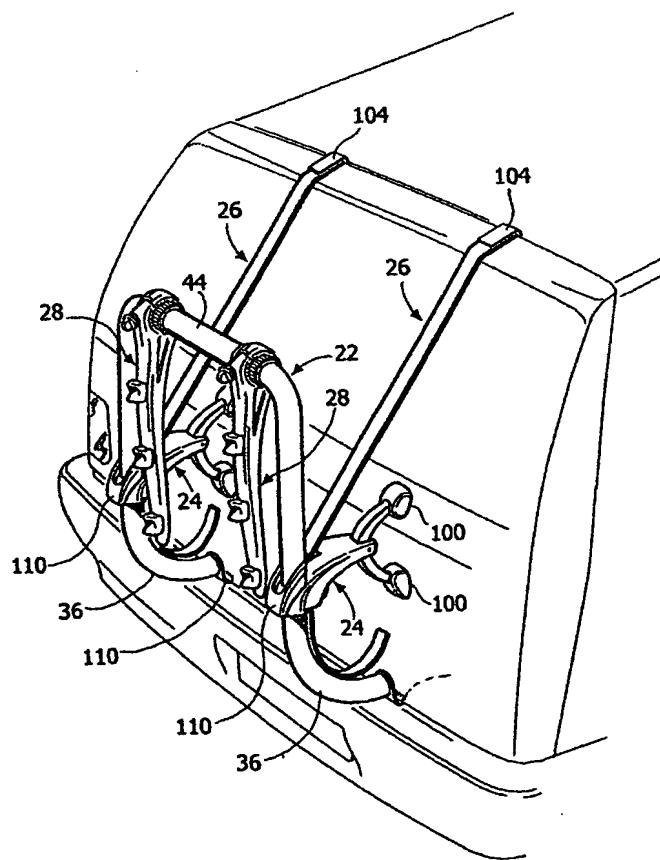
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VEHICLE-MOUNTED EQUIPMENT CARRIER



(57) Abstract: An equipment carrier for mounting onto a rear component of a vehicle structure, such as a vehicle trunk lid or door, comprises a frame (22) having lower engagement elements (40) engageable with a lower area of the vehicle component, a structure connected to the frame (22) for carrying one or more items of equipment, at least one vehicle engaging member (24), connected to the frame, for engaging the vehicle component at a position above said lower area, a strap member (26) having upper engagement elements (104) for engagement with an upper area of the vehicle component, and at least one support connected to the frame, provided with a strap engaging and tensioning mechanism (110), which is engaged by the strap member (26) and can be controlled for tensioning the strap member in order to tighten the upper and lower engagement elements onto the upper and lower areas of the vehicle component.

WO 2004/039635 A3



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 03/04773

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B60R9/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B90R B60R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/117524 A1 (JEONG CHANYOUNG) 29 August 2002 (2002-08-29) paragraph [0007] paragraph [0019] - paragraph [0021]; figures 1,7 -----	1-9,13, 19-33
X	US 5 971 241 A (ALLEN ALEXANDER R ET AL) 26 October 1999 (1999-10-26) column 3, line 3 - line 41 column 5, line 29 - line 59; figure 4 -----	1-9,13, 19-33
X	US 2002/096546 A1 (BOGOSLOFSKI KEVIN S) 25 July 2002 (2002-07-25) paragraph [0039] - paragraph [0058]; figures 1,9 ----- -/-	1-9,13, 19-33

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

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12 February 2004

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 452 385 A (PROSEN GILDO G) 5 June 1984 (1984-06-05) column 1, line 51 - line 61 column 2, line 26 - column 3, line 41; figure 1 -----	1,5,32

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 03/04773

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3.  Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
  
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
  
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-9,23-32 (13A,19,20,21,22,33) assuming claim 13A dependent on claim 1 or 5

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-9, 23-32 (13A, 19, 20, 21, 22, 33) assuming claim 13A dependent on claim 1 or 5

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2. claims: 10, 11, 12, 13B, 14-18, 33, (13A, 19, 20, 22, 33) assuming 13A dependent on claim 10

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT****PCT/IB 03/04773**

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